



NEWS RELEASE

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Water Quality Monitored Near Derailment Site

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) investigators have been at the site of the Heimdal derailment since Wednesday, and are currently monitoring water quality in the area. Although the investigation and testing is ongoing, at this time investigators report no contamination of the drainages leading to the James River and no contamination of the river itself. No communities obtain their drinking water from the James River. Heimdal obtains its drinking water from a pipeline, which was not affected by the derailment.

The site is surrounded by a small wetland containing thick growths of cattails and other vegetation. The vegetation, along with booms deployed by the responders, has kept spilled oil confined to a relatively small area around the site. Investigators have patrolled the location in air boats and have not observed oil sheen outside of the boomed area. Officials have not been able to determine how much oil remains on the ground or in the surrounding wetlands, but based on estimates of the quantity of oil recovered and known to have burned, it appears to be less than 60,000 gallons.

Investigators will be sampling ground water in the area, including a well that Heimdal no longer uses for their water supply.

There are no remaining air quality issues near the derailment site. The NDDoH will continue to work with the EPA, the National Transportation Safety Board, BNSF and local responders to coordinate testing and remediation efforts as they relate to public health.

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